

10,12,122 and 11,16,782 tribal children respectively are eligible for primary stage schooling.

Of the above, 9,76,970 and 10,58,325 children of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand respectively are enrolled in the current academic year.

(c) All children studying in Government and Government-aided primary schools and EGS/AIE Centres are receiving mid-day meal.

(d) Children of six plus age are eligible to attend primary schools.

School education in developing countries

†455. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than fifty crores of children are deprived of school level education in almost 28 developing countries according to the education for all global monitoring report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India and Pakistan are included in those four developing countries wherein almost 2 crore 30 lakh children are not getting the school level education; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government for increasing the rate of literacy to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The measures being taken by the Government for increasing the rate of literacy to address this problem include flagships programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and targeted initiatives such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, Mahila Samakhya Scheme, National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level, Education Guarantee Scheme, etc.

Children out of schools

456. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after having incurred an expenditure of Rs. 11,133.57 crore on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 1.36 crore children in the age group of 6-14 years remained out of schools as on March, 2005;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons of the failure of primary objective of SSA; and

(c) the measures taken to strengthen the implementation of SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made considerable progress in enhancing access to elementary education. From 4.4 crore children who were out of school in 2001, the number came down to 1.34 crore by July-August, 2005 as per an independent survey report.

(c) Context specific interventions for children who are "hardest to reach" such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under SSA. The Government of India has undertaken 17 orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to do such context specific interventions.

Rigging of voting machines

†457. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of tampering with the voting machines; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received any survey relating to negative report from anywhere in the country or from abroad in this regard;

(c) whether Government have got voting machines checked completely and whether there is any possibility of misuse of these voting machines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Election Commission has informed that the voting machine is both mechanically and electronically protected to prevent any tampering/manipulation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.